

Administrative:
635 Main Street
Middletown, CT 06457
860.347.6971

Locations:

CHC of Bristol
395 North Main Street
Bristol, CT 06010
860.585.5000

CHC of Clinton
114 East Main Street
Clinton, CT 06413
860.664.0787

CHC of Danbury
8 Delay Street
Danbury, CT 06810
203.797.8330

CHC of Enfield
5 North Main Street
Enfield, CT 06082
860.253.9024

CHC of Groton
481 Gold Star Highway
Groton, CT 06340
860.446.8858

CHC of Meriden
134 State Street
Meriden, CT 06450
203.237.2229

CHC of Middletown
675 Main Street
Middletown, CT 06457
860.347.6971

CHC of New Britain
85 Lafayette Street
New Britain, CT 06051
860.224.3642

CHC of New London
One Shaw's Cove
New London, CT 06320
860.447.8304

CHC of Old Saybrook
263 Main Street
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
860.388.4433

CHC of Waterbury
51 North Elm Street
Waterbury, CT 06702
203.574.4000

Day Street CHC
49 Day Street
Norwalk, CT 06854
203.854.9292

Franklin Street CHC
141 Franklin Street
Stamford, CT 06901
203.969.0802

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Testimony of
Community Health Center, Inc.
Presented by
Mark Masselli
President and CEO

Before the Appropriations and Public Health Committees
Regarding The Department of Public Health
Report on Financial Assistance for
Community Health Centers

December 12, 2013



Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, members of the Appropriations and Public Health Committees, good morning. My name is Mark Masselli, and I'm the President and CEO of Community Health Center, Inc., headquartered in Middletown. CHC serves over 130,000 patients each year at our thirteen major sites and over 218 different locations across the state

Thank you for this opportunity to discuss funding formulas for the Federally Qualified Health Centers here in Connecticut. For over forty years, we have been meeting the needs of special populations, particularly those earning less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. The partnership that has grown between health centers and the State and Federal government has helped meet the basic health care needs of hundreds of thousands of Connecticut residents.

We applaud the efforts of the General Assembly and the Department of Public Health to improve the method by which funds are allocated to health centers across the state. It is important that the funds be allocated as fairly, transparently, and efficiently as possible and we support the recommendations of the Department of Public Health in terms of the best method of allocations.

The research that you have undertaken into how other states approach allocating funds, and the use of Uniform Data System (UDS) data as a common data set reported by all FQHC, contributes greatly to fairness and transparency of the proposed methodology. The efforts to balance infrastructure costs, costs per patient and costs per service as well as efforts to minimize any negative impact on health centers will help assure the stability of health centers as they grow to meet growing health care needs in the age of the Affordable Care Act.

Over the coming months, health centers will face additional uncertainty as we help enroll people with insurance through the Affordable Care Act. A quick adoption of the funding methodology will help reduce some of this uncertainty and the funding for different service types, including enabling services, will help in the efforts to get as many people enrolled as quickly and easily as possible.

Serving underserved and uninsured patients at Connecticut's largest network of community health centers.



While the Affordable Care Act is an important step in getting more people access to health insurance, there will still be many people in Connecticut who remain uninsured. For those who gain insurance, either through Medicaid or through the health insurance exchange, we still must address the question “access to what?” and ensure that our model of care creates the best clinical outcomes..

CHC looks forward to continued close work with the General Assembly, the Department of Public Health as well as other state agencies and organizations to make sure that as access improves, so does quality of care and health outcomes.

Thank you.